VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

TRANSMISSION: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

We provide energy for millions of customers throughout northern Illinois and maintaining the property around our electrical equipment is a priority. That’s why we regularly perform grounds maintenance around substations and transmission rights of way to provide a safe environment and help ensure reliable power for our customers.

SUBSTATION GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Landscape Maintenance
Approximately once per week, between April and October, crews cut grass and pick up trash. Bushes are trimmed once per year.

Vegetation Control
ComEd-owned substations have gravel yards that need to be clear of plant growth. Because a variety of aggressive vegetation can grow under just about any condition, we use licensed contractors to apply herbicide around the property, including fence lines, to prevent growth that could interfere with equipment. All products used are EPA-approved and applied per manufacturer instructions. Herbicide is applied once per year between April and June.

Fence Line Clearance
Trees or shrubs growing next to substations may be trimmed or removed if they have the potential to interfere with our equipment. Therefore we recommend customers keep a 10-foot clearance if planting near a substation fence line. This is important for the security of the substation, power reliability, and customer safety.

TRANSMISSION RIGHT OF WAY GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Grass Cutting
Transmission rights of way are the corridors where transmission lines are located. Grass cutting around rights of way is conducted once per month between April and October, and is performed by commercial mowing equipment that may leave a rough or uneven cut. Maintenance is weather dependent. Trash is picked up prior to mowing, but lawn clippings are left behind.

Tree Trimming
We do not always own or manage the property around transmission lines. In these cases, we will perform tree trimming for power line clearance, but mowing and grounds maintenance is the responsibility of the property owner or lessee.

Conservation Efforts
Some rights of way are not mowed at all, being kept in a natural state to support wetlands conservation efforts and provide beneficial wildlife habitats. In some cases, native grasses and flowers are planted to help support the pollinator population (bees and butterflies).

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